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*Plague and cholera.*

*British South Africa.*—According to a report dated July 25, Durban has been officially declared to be free from plague.

*British India.*—In Calcutta, during the period from the 19th to the 25th of July, 9 persons died of plague and 15 persons died of cholera.

*Cholera.*

*Turkey.*—According to the official weekly bulletin of the 17th of August there have been registered in Syria 472 new cases of cholera and 428 deaths.

*Death rate of Berlin.*

The death rate of Berlin for the week ended August 22 was lower than in the foregoing week. It amounted, calculated upon the year, to 16.5 per thousand of the population, as compared with 18.3 in the foregoing week, thus being, however, considerably higher than the rate for the corresponding week of last year, in which it amounted to only 13 per thousand. Of the other large German cities, seven showed more favorable figures than Berlin, among them being Bremen, Kiel, Stuttgart, Schöneberg, with 15.6, and Charlottenburg with 15.5. The following towns had considerably higher rates than that of Berlin, namely, Hamburg, Munich, Nuremberg, Dresden, Frankfurt-am-Main, Hanover, Königsberg, Breslau, Leipzig, Cologne, and Brunswick. In London and Vienna the rate of mortality was somewhat lower than in this city; the Paris rate being, on the other hand, somewhat higher than that of Berlin. The death rate among infants fell from 8.5 to 7.3 per thousand, being thereby somewhat higher than the rate of Hamburg and Munich. There was no important change regarding acute diseases of the respiratory organs, which caused 38 deaths. There was a decrease in the number of cases of intestinal disease, which, however, caused 175 deaths. Seventy-nine persons died of cholera. During the week in question 72 persons died of phthisis pulmonalis and 35 persons died of cancer. Furthermore, there were registered 6 deaths from diphtheria, 6 deaths from measles, and 1 death from scarlet fever. Seventeen persons died by violence.

*Sickness from use of mattresses made from old rags.*

Consul-General Worman, at Munich, reports, September 5, as follows:

Numerous cases of sickness have arisen in Germany, especially in the northern portion of the Empire, from the use of wool mattresses made up of old soiled rags which the manufacturers had failed to properly disinfect.

The different state governments of the Empire, among these very recently the government of Bavaria, have been moved to issue ordinances against the manufacture of mattresses from rags that have not been disinfected according to the methods prescribed by the board of health. A trespass against these provisions of law is made a crime and is punishable with an imprisonment up to four weeks. In order to secure a strict observance of this law all the manufacturers of woollen rags are required to keep a book account of all such material acquired by them, together with the record of the time and methods of disinfection employed before using the same in their manufacture of mattresses.